

(b) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, whether the Government has taken any and what steps to prevent such dangerous wanderings?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*):

(a) Government are aware that pauper lepers are wandering in some places in the State.

(b) Government are taking every possible step to prevent it as far as accommodation and finances permit.

LEPER ASYLUM—ADUR.

126. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of beds provided for in the leper asylum at Adur;

(b) the number of beds occupied at present;

(c) whether at any time admission to patients had to be refused for want of accommodation;

(d) if the answer to question (c) is in the affirmative, the number of patients who have been refused admission;

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to provide for increased accommodation (if the answer to question (c)) is in the affirmative?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*):

(a)	Treatables	320
	Burnt-outs	50
	Untainted children	24
(b)	Treatables	302
	Burnt-outs	20
	Untainted children	5

(c) Admissions had sometimes to be refused for want of funds under dietary charges, etc.

(d) No account is kept of the number who have been refused admission.

(e) Yes. When more funds are available.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know whether the Government are aware that Lepers are wandering in the suburbs of Leper Asylum at Adur?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): There are a few Lepers wandering. Not only there but even in the town of Ernakulam.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): What I wanted to know is whether the Government are aware of the wanderings of the Lepers in the suburbs of the Leper Asylum?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): There are a few. I know.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): Are the Government aware of the report contained in the Malabar Mail that a Leper was exposing himself to the weather and was dying openly in the suburbs of the Leper Asylum at Adoor?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): No information to the Government.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): Will the Government be pleased to enquire into it?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): It has not come to the notice of the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): Have we got, Sir, statistics, regarding the number of Lepers in the State?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): A couple of years ago a survey was held. An expert from the Indian Leprosy Association from Calcutta came over here and after a survey he came to the conclusion that the number of lepers is somewhere between 6 and 8 thousand.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): Will the Government be pleased to state, as to whether the District Magistrate has the power to arrest the wandering Lepers?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (Secretary to Government): No power.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): മതപരിവർത്തനത്തിന് വിസമ്മതിക്കുന്ന കഷ്ടരോഗികളോട് കഷ്ടരോഗാതുപത്രംയിലെ അധികൃതന്മാർ നിർദ്വയമായി പെരുമാറുന്നത് തവമെൻറിനറിയാമോ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): ഇല്ല.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram): ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഏതെങ്കിലും വിസിറാർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (Chief Medical Officer): Not that I know of.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any danger of spreading of the disease on account of the wandering of the lepers?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): There is.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Canganur*): May I know what steps the Government have taken? In the answer it is stated that every possible steps have been taken.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Government is at present maintaining a Leper Colony at Adoor at a cost of about Rs. 50,000, an amount which is far disproportionate to the revenue of the State and much more than any other State is spending. That is item No. 1. In almost every hospital and dispensary leper clinics have been started where free treatment is given to those who go there, on modern lines.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know how many leper patients the Leper Asylum accommodates?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): There are at present 302 treatables, 20 Burnt-outs, and 5 untainted children of lepers.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Jews*): What is meant by burnt-outs?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Burnt-out patients are those in whom leprosy has had its ravages and though they look to the ordinary man as lepers they are free from the contagion of leprosy even though they go out, because the disease has burnt itself out.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Why should this burnt-outs be kept in the Asylum?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): It is simply out of pure humane consideration because they are very poor. They are handicapped to earn their livelihood because they have lost their limbs. They are rather unsightly when they lie on the road.

SHANMUKHAM CANAL—IRINJALAKKUDA.

127. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** (*Nellayi*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

what progress has the Shanmukham Canal of Irinjalakkuda made?